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259A 3659 PCT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of:

KOHEI NAKAMURA

Serial No.: 10/518,684

Filed: December 17, 2004

For: FLAT VALVE DEVICE

Art Unit: 3751

Examiner: --

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**  
**UNDER 37 CFR 1.97(b)**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

Pursuant to 37 CFR 1.56, 1.97 and 1.98, Applicant for the above-identified application hereby submits legible copies of the following relevant arts along with the Form PTO-1449 which contains the information required by 37 CFR 1.98(b):

- A. Japanese Patent No. 3374190 issued on November 29, 2002 and published on February 4, 2003 by the Japanese Patent Office;
- B. Japanese Utility Model Application Laid-Open (Kokai) No. 3-117857 published on December 5, 1991 by the Japanese Patent Office;
- C. Japanese Patent Application Laid-Open (Kokai) No. JP 10-167334 published on June 23, 1998 by the Japanese Patent Office;
- D. Japanese Patent Application Laid-Open (Kokai) No. JP 2002-022042 published on January 23, 2002 by the Japanese Patent Office;
- E. Japanese Patent Application Laid-Open (Kokai) No. JP 60-44668 published on March 9, 1985 by the Japanese Patent Office;
- F. Japanese Patent Application Laid-Open (Kokai) No. JP 2002-235719 published on August 23, 2002 by the Japanese Patent Office;
- G. Japanese Utility Model Application Publication (Kokoku) No. JP 7-18614

published on May 1, 1995 by the Japanese Patent Office;

H. Japanese Utility Model Application Publication (Kokoku) No. 36-1653 published on February 1, 1961 by the Japanese Patent Office;

I. United States Patent No. 5,203,831 issued to Lind et al. on April 20, 1993;

J. Japanese Patent Application Laid-Open (Kokai) No. JP 08-061534 published on March 8, 1996 by the Japanese Patent Office;

K. Japanese Patent Application Laid-Open (Kokai) No. JP 10-213243 published on August 11, 1998 by the Japanese Patent Office;

L. Japanese Patent Application Laid-Open (Kokai) No. JP 09-049515 published on February 18, 1997 by the Japanese Patent Office;

M. Japanese Patent Application Laid-Open (Kokai) No. JP 2001-153103 published on June 8, 2001 by the Japanese Patent Office;

N. Japanese Utility Model Registration No. 3073899 registered on September 27, 2000 and published on December 15, 2000 by the Japanese Patent Office.

The above-listed prior arts A through I are cited in the International Search Report completed on June 25, 2004 and issued to PCT Application No. PCT/JP2004/008210 upon which the above-identified U.S. application is filed. A copy of the International Search Report is enclosed. Though the prior arts A through H are not in the English language, the Search Report is written in English and the degree of relevance is indicated therein by way of the markings of As along with the explanation of such markings. Accordingly, pursuant to MPEP Section 609, the requirement for a concise explanation of relevance for this non-English language prior art is satisfied and an English concise explanation thereof is omitted herein. Nonetheless, an English language abstract of these prior arts is attached to the copies thereof. The English abstract attached to the prior art A is of Japanese Patent Application Laid-Open (Kokai) No. 11-325284 published on November 26, 1999, which corresponds to the prior art A.

The prior arts J and K are not in the English language, but the concise explanation of relevance of these prior arts is incorporated in the specification pursuant to 37 CFR 1.98(a)(3). Nonetheless, an English language abstract of these prior arts is attached to the copies thereof.

The prior arts L and M are in Japanese, and the English translation of each one of these prior arts is not available at this time to the undersigned. However, an English language abstract is attached to each one of these non-English prior art. Accordingly, pursuant to MPEP Section

609, the requirement for a concise explanation of the relevance is satisfied, and an English concise explanation of each one of the prior arts L and M is omitted herein.

Since the prior art N is not in English and no English translation or English language abstract is available at this time to the undersigned, a concise explanation of the relevance of this prior art is presented below pursuant to 37 CFR 1.1.98(a)(3):

Prior art N discloses a liquid supply equipment having a flow control part. The liquid supply equipment includes at least a liquid supply opening (3), a liquid storage part (4), and a liquid supplying conduit (6) extending from the liquid storage part (4) to a liquid receiving part, and a flow control part (7) disposed on the boundary between the liquid storage part (4) and the liquid supplying conduit (6). The flow control part (7) has a threaded hole, and a male thread (1) inserted therein with a liquid feeding groove (2) for feeding the liquid in alternating directions to control the flow rate by providing the thread with a reciprocating motion.

In view of the above, it is therefore respectfully requested that the Patent Office make a record of these relevant arts and consider them.

Respectfully submitted,

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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to:

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on

October 24, 2005

Date of Deposit

William L. Androlia

Name

10/24/2005

Signature

Date



<b>FORM PTO-1449</b>			<b>Docket Number (Optional)</b> 259A 3659 PCT		<b>Application Number</b> 10/518,684	
<b>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE CITATION IN AN APPLICATION</b>			<b>Applicant</b> Kohei Nakamura			
(Use several sheets if necessary)			<b>Filing Date</b> 12/17/2004		<b>Group Art Unit</b> 3751	
<b>U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS</b>						
EXAMINER INITIAL	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE
	5,203,831	4/20/1993	Lind et al.	F16K	15/20	10/5/1992
<b>FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS</b>						
	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUBCLASS	TRANSLATION (YES/NO)
	JP 3374190	2/4/2003	Japan	F16K	15/14	No
	JP 3-117857	12/5/1991	Japan	H01L	39/04	No
	JP 10-167334	6/23/1998	Japan	B65D	81/20	No
	JP 2002-022042	1/23/2002	Japan	F16K	15/18	No
	JP 60-044668	3/9/1985	Japan	F16K	1/52	No
	JP 2002-235719	8/23/2002	Japan	F16B	35/00	No
	JP 7-18614	5/1/1995	Japan	B65D	47/36	No
	JP 36-1653	2/1/1961	Japan	--	--	No
	JP 08-061534	3/8/1996	Japan	F16K	15/20	No
	JP 10-213243	8/11/1998	Japan	F16K	15/20	No
	JP 09-049515	2/18/1997	Japan	F16B	35/00	No
	JP 2001-153103	6/8/2001	Japan	F15B	11/00	No
	JP 3073899	12/15/2000	Japan	F16N	7/10	No
<b>OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)</b>						
<b>EXAMINER</b>			<b>DATE CONSIDERED</b>			
EXAMINER: Initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP § 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to the applicant.						